

ALL AROUND THE FARM

Conducted by S. C. Hulz

BEANS AND PEAS TO PLANT

WM. TEN EYCK, of the Kansas Station has made some valuable tests of various field crops and his results show that among the millets German ranked first in the yield of hay and seed, the largest yields being 3.6 tons of hay and 25.2 bushels of seed per acre. Siberian millet ranked second.

The following varieties of soy beans are mentioned as yielding more than 13 bushels per acre: Yellow, Small Yellow, Ito San, Early Yellow, Green Samarow, and Early Brown, of which Ito San and the Yellow varieties are the most productive. The Ito San and Early Yellow rank high in earliness.

Of 34 varieties of cowpeas grown, New Era gave the largest yield, 11.7 bushels per acre, and several varieties gave an average yield of 2.5 tons of dry fodder per acre. Coleman, Early Amber, Kansas saccharine sorghums gave good results.

Coleman ranked first in production, with a yield of 40.55 bushels of seed and 7.41 tons of stover per acre, while Amber and Kavanaugh ranked first and last, respectively, in maturity. It was found that fifty days after harvesting, sorghum stover in the sack still contained on the average 51.7 per cent of moisture.

The results with nonsaccharine sorghums showed that yellow Milo maize and large African Millet yielded 5.27 tons of stover and 20.5 bushels of grain, and 5.33 tons of stover and 37.3 bushels of grain per acre, respectively, while Red Kafir corn and Black-Hulled White Kafir corn from seed from the same source yielded 4.42 tons of stover and 57.3 bushels of grain, and 4.07 tons of stover and 59.1 bushels of grain per acre, respectively. The Kafir corn stover contained fully as much moisture when stacked as the stover of the saccharine sorghums.

HELPLUL HINTS

In a sense alfalfa makes a permanent pasture for cattle, yet it needs intelligent care and careful grazing. It should not be tramped when wet or frozen and is better adapted to soiling than pasturing. If not grazed too close, if the stock is rotated from one field to another to allow it to get a start after being eaten down, it will last for many years. Gnawed to the earth, tramped when wet or frozen, it is soon gone. Cattle are readily soiled with alfalfa and treated in this way there is no bloat or injury to alfalfa fields, and many more cattle can be kept on a given area.

Make a rack for the garden tools. It's easy. Cut straight notches, 4 inches deep in the edge of a hardwood board 6 inches wide. Fasten this firmly to the wall by braces—one at each end and one in the middle. Make the notches of different widths to hold the hoes, shovels and other implements that are to be hung up by the head. The board makes a handy shop.

You cannot blame your neighbor for not keeping up his share of the line fence if you do not keep up yours.

Invite your neighbor and his wife to Sunday dinner occasionally and have the children over frequently in the evening. Social life in the country can be made very pleasant if we only open our shells. Some people who seldom go visiting stay at home because they are too retiring in disposition to make the first advances.

Go over all the tools, file the saws, grind the cutting tools, put on new handles where needed, and put everything in good working order.

With prices for wool soaring and mutton too high-priced for folks to eat, it does seem as if more farmers would join the ranks of the Knights of the Golden Hoof.

It does not require large capital to start in the business of breeding pure blood cattle, but it does require determination, intelligence and a proper understanding of the underlying principle of reproduction. No man should start in the work unless he is quite sure he possesses the unquenchable thirst for knowledge and the enthusiastic interest of the true investigator.

The farmer who is interested in his business has no time to grumble about hard times.

The one consoling thing about a mule is that he is one-half horse. Were it not for this redeeming trait of relationship he would have still fewer friends.

THE MOST POPULAR BREEDS

TO THE beginner in poultry raising the following notes about breeds may be helpful:

The White Wyandotte is a steady layer of good average sized eggs, the color varying from a tint to a nice brown. Excellent winter layers. The leading breed for broilers, and popular for small roasting fowls. The Silver and the Buff Wyandottes are also good breeds with about the same merits.

The Barred, White and Buff Plymouth Rocks are larger sized birds than the Wyandottes, and are good layers if not too liberally fed on carbonaceous foods. They

lay a good sized egg, more or less of a brown color. They make good roasting fowls but their meat is coarser grained than that of the Wyandotte.

The light Brahmas excel for large roasting fowls. If kept in good condition they are excellent winter layers. Their eggs are of a rich brown color.

The White Leghorn leads in the Leghorn family. They are steady early spring, summer and fall layers. They lay a large white egg. The Buff in merit comes next. The Brown Leghorn lays probably more eggs in a year than any of the Leghorn family, but the eggs are of rather small size.

The Rhode Island Reds are first-class layers; brown eggs. They are excellent roasting fowls.

The Black Langshan is a grand winter layer, the eggs being of the finest color. As roasting fowls they are unexcelled, their flesh very closely resembling the turkey both in appearance and flavor. But the Langshan will never be very popular among market men who must have a yellow-skinned carcass, and who cannot dress a neat carcass with a bird that shows dark pin feathers.

CASH IN THE APPLE ORCHARD

Mrs. S. L. Wilson, Iowa.

THE apple orchard as an investment and as a healthful, congenial occupation possesses great opportunities. It will pay more in cash returns on the money invested and the labor that is necessary to maintain it than anything I know of. I think that the south central section offers as many or more advantages for such an orchard than any other section of the United States. In the first place, there is found as good soil for apples as can be found anywhere. There is a profitable market right at home, and farmers can grow the Jonathan and Ben Davis apples just as easy and with as much certainty as they can grow a crop of corn. All they have to do is to give them as much attention.

Any man can succeed who is in love with the work, and has steadfastness of purpose enough to not lose all his enthusiasm as soon as he has planted his trees, or after the first off year, providing he has business ability enough to get all out of his crops that they are worth. He must spray his fruit for fungus diseases and insects and give it good care. A small, commercial orchard should be planted to only two varieties, the Jonathan and Ben Davis, equal number of each. About the right area to plant would be twenty acres. The Ben Davis will be the first to bear fruit and the first to die. The Jonathan will bear fairly well while young, and the older they get the more freely they will bear. They generally live longer than most varieties. A Jonathan orchard from ten to thirty years old is a sure money-maker.

The orchard should be planted on high, rich land that is well drained and not rolling enough to wash and should be self-supporting for the first ten years and from the age of ten to thirty years should net its owner \$1,000 on an average. Such an orchard will return as much profit to the farmer as the ordinary quarter section of land, as it is generally farmed with the different grains and stock.

DRY PICKING IS BEST

Dry picking is always to be preferred when preparing turkeys for market. When in fine condition, nicely picked, and sent to market without having been packed in ice, a turkey is at its best, and consequently commands the highest price. As soon as the fowl is stuck and the blood is still flowing, pluck the feathers dry from its body, taking care in doing this not to tear the skin or break the flesh. Nothing detracts so much from dressed poultry as torn places upon the carcass or shank; picking must be clean and nicely done. When the fowl is plucked hang it head down in a cool place until all animal heat is gone from the body, being careful not to hang it where it will be exposed to cold air as to be likely to freeze. Do not remove the head, feet, or entrails, but have the whole carcass, including head and feet, perfectly clean.

FEED EACH COW BY HERSELF

To feed most economically each cow must be individually fed, and the quantity of feed she is given governed by her size and the quantity of milk she produces. Four pounds of grain daily may be as much as some cows can profitably be given, while others will make most profitable returns from ten to twelve pounds. Other things being equal, a large cow requires more feed than a small one, and a cow giving a large quantity of milk more than one giving a smaller quantity.

Crows have become such a nuisance in some parts of Illinois that farmers are organizing crow hunts. In Elgin and Cain counties 1,131 crows were killed by 37 hunters in one week.

For many years we have been told that snow is a poor man's manure. We know that there is nitrogen in snow and that the soil is more or less benefited by it, but when one has to dig through snow to a gate four times a week, taking away six feet at a time, he becomes skeptical about the chemical analysis of this particular kind of fertilizer.

SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY HELP

A cow, by actual test, giving six quarts of milk at each milking, taken away five miles and housed in a strange stable gave less than one quart at the evening milking and only four quarts at the next morning's milking.

She was driven on the journey very slowly and allowed to stop several times for feed and drink. She was treated with the utmost kindness, yet the irregularity of her daily routine life decreased the milk yield 50 per cent for the day, and nearly 20 per cent for the following day.

Dairy cows should be fed and milked with clock-like regularity. They should be given the privilege, and induced to drink freely, for the flow of milk will be governed largely by the amount of water consumed.

Avoid unnecessary change of water with dairy cows, because many will not drink from a strange well until they are starved to it.

No domestic animal should be compelled to drink ice-cold water in winter. That pumped from a deep well and given to the stock immediately is about the right temperature.

The hog by nature loves water, and shade during the summer, but it should have dry and very warm quarters in winter.

Where insufficient protection from storms and the cold are given, and many are in one pen, hogs will lie in heaps one upon the other in order to keep warm and the weakest suffer and often perish.

The hog by nature cannot stand dust. When hogs cough, if the pen be dry, sprinkle it to settle the dust. Avoid bedding with musty or dusty material.

Winter is the very best time of the year to move and transplant large shade trees. Take them up with a large ball of frozen soil which holds without injury an immense number of feeding roots.

Drag down stalks and tall weeds in winter when the ground is frozen or dry. In this condition they will catch the snows and rains, become rotten, make plowing easier, and sooner become available plant food when turned under.

On hilly land inclined to wash, watch the soil during winter, and fill depressions and gullies with stalks, straw and any rubbish that will hold the soil and catch any that may be washed in from roads and adjacent fields.

Keep the barn, stables, hog pens, and poultry houses clean of litter and manure. The department of trade and commerce of Canada has issued a statement that the western wheat crop of that country will be 85,000,000 bushels. Of this only one-fourth will grade No. 1 hard.

A large number of German farmers in Missouri are selling their land from \$100 to \$125 per acre and are going farther west in search of cheaper land.

Railroads of the south are making great efforts to induce farmers in the cold northern regions to go down there. Although there are thousands of improved farms that have been allowed to deteriorate through bad management there is practically no wild and vacant lands to be had in that country.

The scarcity of squabs has induced certain unscrupulous persons to substitute very young chickens and palm them off on the public as pigeons. The reason squabs are so scarce is because so many of them are sold as quail.

Ten of King Edward's English Shire horses are being exhibited in this country although not for competition. These horses are the descendants of the great Shires that were once ridden by the knights at the wars and tournaments of England.

HOW UNCLE JOHN FIGURES IT

Farming is a profession, and only when it is so regarded will it be accorded its proper place among honorable vocations.

The ideal farmer is made out of the child of the farm; he has been developed by education and science. The former he secures from the common schools and the latter at the agricultural college or from farm journals.

One of the most potent factors in advancing agriculture is the fair. No other institution offers such opportunities to the farmer for acquiring profitable knowledge. He is there instructed in his special line of work. He is stimulated and encouraged to give his best efforts to the betterment of his products. He is made a better farmer.

A straw stack is a fine thing for the farm animals to use as a sort of "winter" house these cold days, but see that they are properly housed at night.

The trouble with many of us is, we lack pride in our work and the reason we do not is because our work is done in a careless slipshod manner. It is a poor rule that will not work both ways; therefore, to be proud of our work we ought to do it well.

WAR ON LIQUOR AND TOBACCO

The Kansas Anti-Liquor Society has adopted a new plan to fight the liquor traffic. It is mailing free a recipe for the cure of the liquor habit. It can be given secretly in coffee or food. Also one for the tobacco habit that can be given secretly. The only request they make is that you do not sell the recipes, but give free copies to friends. Their address is Room 73 Gray Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

NOTES ON ORCHARD WORK

If there is a "seepy" spot in the orchard drain it or the trees will die.

To plant a scrub tree is just as foolish as to buy a runt pig or a measly cow.

Head off the rabbits by wrapping the trees from the ground up two feet with heavy paper.

As the tree is pruned so will it grow.

It is a mistake to prune apple trees to open head too much in the western states. The thick tops are needed to protect the buds and fruit from the hot sun and strong winds that sweep over the wide prairies.

Keep one eye on the apples in the cellar to see they do not rot and the other on the market reports.

A well selected apple orchard in bearing is worth around \$500 an acre.

You can give your fruit color by paying attention to the scientific facts, about sunlight and air.

On many soils both fruits and vegetables are benefited by an application of wood ashes.

For almost any kind of small fruit the land should be deeply plowed, thoroughly cultivated and well fertilized.

Pack your apples in boxes so the fruit can easily be seen and you will be well repaid for the trouble.

Stormy days are the times for making up small fruit boxes and crates. If allowed to lie many weeks, however, they lose this fresh appearance, which is not a good thing.

Georgia has nearly 4,000,000 bearing fruit trees.

Poultry confined to a small area in the orchard will destroy the pupae of the apple maggot.

A fruit tree in every fence corner would look better than weeds. Is your orchard full of weeds and other litter to provide a snug home for mice?

COST OF BUTTER

Statistics carefully compiled from all of the Iowa creameries show that the average cost for manufacturing butter is about four cents a pound in a creamery that makes 40,000 pounds of butter in a year; one and three-fourths cents in a creamery that makes 150,000; and about one and one-half cents where the creamery makes 200,000 pounds. This means that other things being equal the farmer who patronizes the large creamery will receive about two cents per pound more for his butter than the patron of the small creamery. As the average Minnesota cow produces about 165 pounds of butter in a year her annual earning capacity is \$3.23 more where her product is taken to a large creamery than when taken to a small one. The above figures are suggestive in that they show the error of starting creameries in localities where there is a shortage of cows.

PREPARED FOODS

I have been feeding a laying food and find it very good for my hens. I have never had my hens lay so well before through the winter months as they have this year. They seem to like it very much and to thrive well on it. I have also used a chick food and like it very much indeed. I would not go without it if it cost me \$5 a hundred weight. I ordered 500 pounds early this spring so as to be sure to get it by the time I have some chicks. It does away with all worry and fussing and there is no waste whatever in feeding it. It is needless to say that I heartily recommend it to poultrymen.—F. S. Benjamin.

LITTLE NUBBINS OF FARM NEWS

Mares that are in foal should be sheltered well and allowed some exercise every day. Light and regular work will afford the best exercise. Oats should be fed to them in preference to any other grain.

Oats, bran and good clover hay are the ideal feed for the breeding ewe.

Why let all the special sheep feeders enjoy all the profits in sheep and lamb feeding? There are many corn farmers who can feed one to two cars of sheep each year.

One of the latest excuses for not growing good crops offered by a slipshod farmer is that "Good crops impoverish the soil." It must be that this is quite generally known in some localities.

In the keeping of milk a strong point is to cool the milk as soon as possible after milking.

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